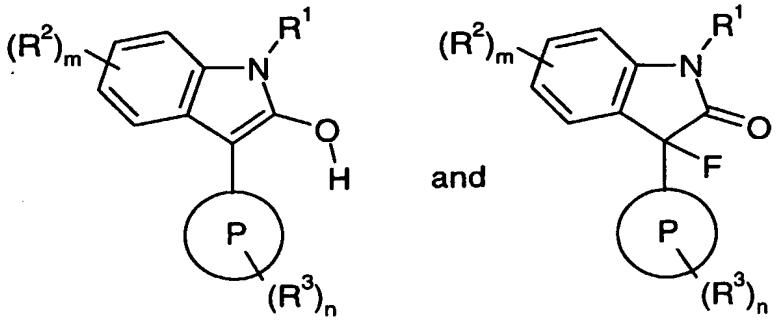
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula **Ia** and **Ib**:



(Ia) and **(Ib)**

wherein:

P represents a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing one or two heteroatoms selected independently from N, O and S of which at least one atom is nitrogen;

R^1 is hydrogen;

R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from halogen, nitro, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{0-6}alkylC_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{0-6}alkylaryl, C_{0-6}alkylheteroaryl, CHO, C_{0-6}alkylOR^4, OC_{1-6}alkylOR^4, C_{0-6}alkylSR^4, OC_{1-6}alkylSR^4, $(CO)R^4$, $(CO)OR^4$, $O(CO)R^4$, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, OC_{1-6}alkylcyano, C_{0-6}alkylcyano, C_{1-6}alkylCO_2R^4, OC_{1-6}alkylCO_2R^4, $O(CO)OR^4$, OC_{1-6}alkylCOR^4, C_{1-6}alkylCOR^4, NR^4OR^5, C_{0-6}alkylNR^4R^5, OC_{1-6}alkylNR^4R^5, C_{0-6}alkyl$CONR^4R^5$, OC_{1-6}alkyl$CONR^4R^5$, OC_{1-6}alkyl$NR^4(CO)R^5$, C_{0-6}alkyl$NR^4(CO)R^5$, C_{0-6}alkyl$NR^4(CO)NR^4R^5$, $O(CO)NR^4R^5$, $NR^4(CO)OR^5$, C_{0-6}alkyl$(SO_2)NR^4R^5$, OC_{1-6}alkyl$(SO_2)NR^4R^5$, C_{0-6}alkyl$NR^4(SO_2)R^5$, OC_{1-6}alkyl$NR^4(SO_2)R^5$, C_{0-6}alkyl$(SO)NR^4R^5$, OC_{1-6}alkyl$(SO)NR^4R^5$, SO_3R^4, C_{0-6}alkyl$NR^4(SO_2)NR^4R^5$, C_{0-6}alkyl$NR^4(SO)R^5$, OC_{0-6}alkyl$NR^4(SO)R^5$, OC_{0-6}alkylSO_2R^4, C_{0-6}alkylSO_2R^4, C_{0-6}alkylSOR^4, OC_{1-6}alkylSOR^4 and a group X^1R^6, wherein X^1 is a direct bond, O, $CONR^7R^8$, $SO_2NR^9R^{10}$, SO_2R^{11} or $NR^{12}R^{13}$; and wherein R^6 is linked to R^8, R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{13};

R^7, R^9 and R^{12} each independently are hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^8, R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{13} are C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^6 is phenyl or a 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic group containing one or two heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S, which heterocyclic group may be saturated or unsaturated or said phenyl or 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic group may optionally be fused with a 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring containing atoms selected independently from C, N, O and S and which phenyl or heterocyclic group may be substituted with one or two substituents selected from W;

m is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R^4 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{0-6}alkylC_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{0-6}alkylaryl, C_{0-6}alkylheteroaryl, C_{1-6}alkyl$NR^{14}R^{15}$ and a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing one or two heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S, wherein said heterocyclic group may optionally be substituted by a group Y;

R^5 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{0-6}alkylC_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{0-6}alkylaryl, C_{0-6}alkylheteroaryl and C_{1-6}alkyl$NR^{14}R^{15}$ and; wherein R^4 and R^5 may together form a 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic group containing one or more heteroatoms selected independently from N, O and S, wherein said heterocyclic group may optionally be substituted by a group Y; and wherein any C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{0-6}alkylC_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{0-6}alkylaryl and; C_{0-6}alkylheteroaryl defined under R^2 to R^5 may be substituted by one or more group Z;

R^{14} and R^{15} are independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{0-6}alkylC_{3-6}cycloalkyl and wherein R^{14} and R^{15} may together form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic

group containing one or more heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S, wherein said heterocyclic group may optionally be substituted by a group Y;

W and Z are independently selected from oxo, halogen, nitro, CN, OR^{16}, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{0-6}alkylaryl, C_{0-6}alkylC_{3-6}cycloalkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, OC_{1-6}alkyl$NR^{16}R^{17}$, $NR^{16}R^{17}$, $CONR^{16}R^{17}$, $NR^{16}(CO)R^{17}$, $O(CO)C_{1-6}$alkyl, $(CO)OC_{1-6}$alkyl, COR^{16}, $(SO_2)NR^{16}R^{17}$, SO_2R^{16}, SOR^{16}, $(CO)C_{1-6}$alkyl$NR^{16}R^{17}$, $(SO_2)C_{1-6}$alkyl$NR^{16}R^{17}$, a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing one or two heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S, phenyl and heteroaryl, which heterocyclic group, phenyl or heteroaryl may optionally be substituted by a group Y;

Y is selected from oxo, halogen, nitro, CN, OR^{16}, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{0-6}alkylaryl, C_{0-6}alkylC_{3-6}cycloalkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, OC_{1-6}alkyl$NR^{16}R^{17}$, $NR^{16}R^{17}$, $CONR^{16}R^{17}$, $NR^{16}(CO)R^{17}$, $O(CO)C_{1-6}$alkyl, $(CO)OC_{1-6}$alkyl, COR^{16}, $(SO_2)NR^{16}R^{17}$, SO_2R^{16}, SOR^{16}, $(CO)C_{1-6}$alkyl$NR^{16}R^{17}$, $(SO_2)C_{1-6}$alkyl$NR^{16}R^{17}$, phenyl, C_{0-6}alkylaryl and heteroaryl wherein the phenyl, C_{0-6}alkylaryl and heteroaryl group may be optionally substituted with halogen, nitro, CN, OR^{16}, C_{1-6}alkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy and trifluoromethoxy;

R^{16} and R^{17} are independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl and wherein R^{16} and R^{17} may together form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing one or more heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S;
as a free base or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound according to claim 1, wherein P is a 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing one or two nitrogen atoms.

3. The compound according to claim 1, wherein P is pyridine.

4. The compound according to claim 1, wherein ring P is pyrimidine.

5. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4, said compound being a compound of Formula **Ia**.

6. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from: halogen, nitro, C_{0-6}alkylheteroaryl, trifluoromethyl, C_{0-6}alkylcyano, C_{0-6}alkylNR^4R^5, C_{0-6}alkyl$CONR^4R^5$, OC_{1-6}alkylNR^4R^5, C_{0-6}alkyl$(SO_2)NR^4R^5$, and a group X^1R^6, wherein X^1 is a direct bond; R^6 is a 5-membered heterocyclic group containing one or two heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S, and which heterocyclic group may be subtituted with one or two substituents W, preferably C_{1-6}alkyl; m is 0, 1, 2; and n is 1 or 2.

7. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein:
R^4 is independently selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{0-6}alkylC_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{0-6}alkylaryl, C_{0-6}alkylheteroaryl, C_{1-6}alkyl$NR^{14}R^{15}$ and a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing one or two heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S, wherein said heterocyclic group may optionally be substituted by a group Y;

R^5 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl; wherein R^4 and R^5 may together form a 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic group containing one or more heteroatoms selected independently from N, O and S, wherein said heterocyclic group may optionally be substituted by a group Y; and wherein any C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{0-6}alkylaryl defined under R^2 to R^5 may be substituted by one or more group Z;

R^{14} and R^{15} are independently C_{1-6}alkyl and wherein R^{14} and R^{15} may together form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing one or more heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S;

Z is independently selected from, halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, CN, $NR^{16}R^{17}$.

Y is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{0-6}alkylaryl, $NR^{16}R^{17}$, phenyl, wherein the phenyl may be optionally substituted with nitro and trifluoromethyl;

R^{16} and R^{17} are C_{1-6}alkyl and wherein R^{16} and R^{17} may together form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing one or more heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S.

8. The compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 and claims 5 to 7, wherein P is pyridine; R^2 is CN; R^3 is C_{0-6}alkylNR^4R^5; wherein R^4 and R^5 may together form a 4-, 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic group containing one or more heteroatoms selected independently from N, O and S.

9. A compound which is
2-(5-Cyano-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]isonicotinamide;
2-Hydroxy-3-{4-[(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)carbonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile hydrochloride;
2-Hydroxy-3-{5-[(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)carbonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;
2-Hydroxy-3-[5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile hydrochloride;
2-Hydroxy-3-[6-(2-morpholin-4-ylethoxy)pyrimidin-4-yl]-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;
2-Hydroxy-3-{5-[(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl]pyridin-2-yl}-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile hydrochloride;
6-(5-Cyano-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-*N*-methylnicotinamide hydrochloride;
2-Hydroxy-3-{5-[(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)sulfonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile hydrochloride;
6-(5-Cyano-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*-(2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)pyridine-3-sulfonamide hydrochloride;
2-Hydroxy-3-[5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;
2-Hydroxy-3-[5-(pyrrolidin-1-ylmethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile hydrochloride;
2-Hydroxy-3-{5-[(4-methyl-1,4-diazepan-1-yl)methyl]pyridin-2-yl}-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile hydrochloride;

2-Hydroxy-3-{5-[(4-pyrrolidin-1-ylpiperidin-1-yl)methyl]pyridin-2-yl}-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile hydrochloride;

3-(5-{[3-(Dimethylamino)pyrrolidin-1-yl]methyl}pyridin-2-yl)-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;

2-Hydroxy-3-{5-[(4-methylpiperidin-1-yl)methyl]pyridin-2-yl}-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;

2-Hydroxy-3-{5-[(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl]pyridin-2-yl}-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;

3-[5-(Azetidin-1-ylmethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;

2-Hydroxy-3-[5-({4-[2-nitro-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]piperazin-1-yl}methyl)pyridin-2-yl]-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;

3-(5-{[(2-Cyanoethyl)(ethyl)amino]methyl}pyridin-2-yl)-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;

3-(5-{[(4-Chlorobenzyl)(methyl)amino]methyl}pyridin-2-yl)-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;

3-(5-{[(2-Furylmethyl)(methyl)amino]methyl}pyridin-2-yl)-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;

2-Hydroxy-3-(5-{[methyl(phenyl)amino]methyl}pyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;

2-Hydroxy-3-{5-[(3-methylpiperidin-1-yl)methyl]pyridin-2-yl}-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;

3-(5-{[Cyclohexyl(methyl)amino]methyl}pyridin-2-yl)-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;

2-Hydroxy-3-[5-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;

3-{5-[(4-Methylpiperazin-1-yl)sulfonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-1*H*-indol-2-ol hydrochloride;

6-Chloro-3-{5-[(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)sulfonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-1*H*-indol-2-ol hydrochloride;

3-[5-(Morpholin-4-ylcarbonyl)pyridin-2-yl]-5-nitro-1*H*-indol-2-ol;

6-Bromo-3-[5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-1*H*-indol-2-ol hydrochloride;

2-Hydroxy-3-[5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-1*H*-indole-6-carbonitrile hydrochloride;

5-Bromo-3-[5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-1*H*-indol-2-ol hydrochloride;

5,6-Dibromo-3-[5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-1*H*-indol-2-ol hydrochloride;

3-Fluoro-3-[5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-2-oxoindoline-6-carbonitrile hydrochloride;

3-{5-[(4-Benzylpiperazin-1-yl)sulfonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile hydrochloride;

2-Hydroxy-3-(5-{[4-(3-methylbutyl)piperazin-1-yl]sulfonyl}pyridin-2-yl)-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile hydrochloride;

2-Hydroxy-3-{5-[(4-isopropylpiperazin-1-yl)sulfonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile hydrochloride;

3-{5-[(4-Ethylpiperazin-1-yl)sulfonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile hydrochloride;

3-[5-(Morpholin-4-ylmethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-5-pyridin-3-yl-1*H*-indol-2-ol;

3-[5-(Morpholin-4-ylmethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-5-thien-2-yl-1*H*-indol-2-ol hydrochloride;

5-(2-Furyl)-3-[5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-1*H*-indol-2-ol hydrochloride;

3-{3-Bromo-5-[(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)sulfonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-5-nitro-1*H*-indol-2-ol hydrochloride;

3-[5-(Morpholin-4-ylmethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-indol-2-ol hydrochloride;

2-Hydroxy-3-{5-[(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)sulfonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-1*H*-indole-6-carbonitrile hydrochloride;

N-[(1-Ethylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methyl]-6-(2-hydroxy-5-nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)nicotinamide hydrochloride;

6-(2-Hydroxy-5-nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*-(2-morpholin-4-ylethyl)nicotinamide hydrochloride;

6-(2-Hydroxy-5-nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*-methyl-*N*-(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl)nicotinamide hydrochloride;

5-Nitro-3-{5-[(4-pyrrolidin-1-ylpiperidin-1-yl)carbonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-1*H*-indol-2-ol hydrochloride;

3-(5-{[3-(Dimethylamino)pyrrolidin-1-yl]carbonyl}pyridin-2-yl)-5-nitro-1*H*-indol-2-ol hydrochloride;

N-[2-(Dimethylamino)-1-methylethyl]-6-(2-hydroxy-5-nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)nicotinamide hydrochloride;

6-(2-Hydroxy-5-nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*-(2-pyrollindin-1-ylethyl)nicotinamide fumarate;

3-{5-[(4-Methylpiperazin-1-yl)carbonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-5-nitro-1*H*-indol-2-ol fumarate;

6-(5-Cyano-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*-(2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)nicotinamide fumarate;
6-(5-Cyano-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*-methyl-*N*-(2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)pyridine-3-sulfonamide hydrochloride;
6-(5-Cyano-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]pyridine-3-sulfonamide fumarate;
6-(5-Cyano-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-*N*-ethylpyridine-3-sulfonamide fumarate;
6-(5-Cyano-2-hydroxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-*N*-[(1-ethylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methyl]pyridine-3-sulfonamide fumarate;
2-Hydroxy-3-{5-[(4-methyl-1,4-diazepan-1-yl)sulfonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile fumarate;
2-Hydroxy-3-[5-(morpholin-4-ylsulfonyl)pyridin-2-yl]-1*H*-indole-5-carbonitrile;
3-{5-[(4-Methylpiperazin-1-yl)sulfonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-5-(2-methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1*H*-indol-2-ol hydrochloride;
3-{5-[(4-Methylpiperazin-1-yl)sulfonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-5-(1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1*H*-indol-2-ol fumarate;
3-{5-[(4-Methylpiperazin-1-yl)sulfonyl]pyridin-2-yl}-5-(1,3-oxazol-5-yl)-1*H*-indol-2-ol;
3-[5-(Morpholin-4-ylmethyl)pyridin-2-yl]-5-nitro-1*H*-indol-2-ol hydrochloride.

10. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising as active ingredient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9 in association with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents.

11. The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 10 for use in the prevention and/or treatment of conditions associated with glycogen synthase kinase-3.

12. A compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9 for use in therapy.

13. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9 in the manufacture of a medicament for prevention and/or treatment of conditions associated with glycogen synthase kinase-3.

14. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9 in the manufacture of a medicament for prevention and/or treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Frontotemporal dementia Parkinson's Type, Parkinson dementia complex of Guam, HIV dementia, diseases with associated neurofibrillar tangle pathologies and dementia pugilistica.

15. Use of a compound according to claim 14, wherein the disease is Alzheimer's Disease.

16. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9 in the manufacture of a medicament for prevention and/or treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, corticobasal degeneration, Down syndrome, Huntington's Disease, postencephelatic parkinsonism, progressive supranuclear palsy, Pick's Disease, Niemann-Pick's Disease, stroke, head trauma and other chronic neurodegenerative diseases, Bipolar Disease, affective disorders, depression, schizophrenia, cognitive disorders, hair loss and contraceptive medication.

17. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9 in the manufacture of a medicament for prevention and/or treatment of predemented states, Mild Cognitive Impairment, Age-Associated Memory Impairment, Age-Related Cognitive Decline, Cognitive Impairement No Dementia, mild cognitive decline, mild neurocognitive decline, Late-Life Forgetfulness, memory impairment and cognitive impairment, vascular dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies, Frontotemporal dementia and androgenetic alopecia.

18. A method of prevention and/or treatment of conditions associated with glycogen synthase kinase-3, comprising administrering to a mammal, including man in need of such prevention and/or treatment, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula **Ia** or **Ib** as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9.

19. A method of prevention and/or treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Frontotemporal dementia Parkinson's Type, Parkinson dementia complex of Guam, HIV dementia, diseases with associated neurofibrillar tangle pathologies and dementia pugilistica, comprising administrering to a mammal, including

man in need of such prevention and/or treatment, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula **Ia** or **Ib** as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9.

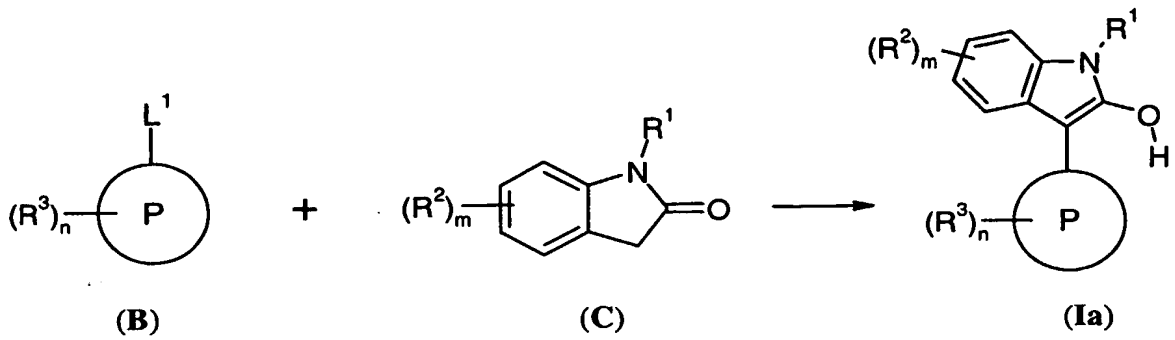
20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the disease is Alzheimer's Disease.

21. A method of prevention and/or treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, corticobasal degeneration, Down syndrome, Huntington's Disease, postencephelatic parkinsonism, progressive supranuclear palsy, Pick's Disease, Niemann-Pick's Disease, stroke, head trauma and other chronic neurodegenerative diseases, Bipolar Disease, affective disorders, depression, schizophrenia, cognitive disorders, hair loss and contraceptive medication, comprising administrering to a mammal, including man in need of such prevention and/or treatment, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula **Ia** or **Ib** as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9.

22. A method of prevention and/or treatment of predemented states, Mild Cognitive Impairment, Age-Associated Memory Impairment, Age-Related Cognitive Decline, Cognitive Impairement No Dementia, mild cognitive decline, mild neurocognitive decline, Late-Life Forgetfulness, memory impairment and cognitive impairment, vascular dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies, Frontotemporal dementia and androgenetic alopecia, comprising administrering to a mammal, including man in need of such prevention and/or treatment, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula **Ia** or **Ib** as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9.

23. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula **Ia** according to claim 1, comprising:

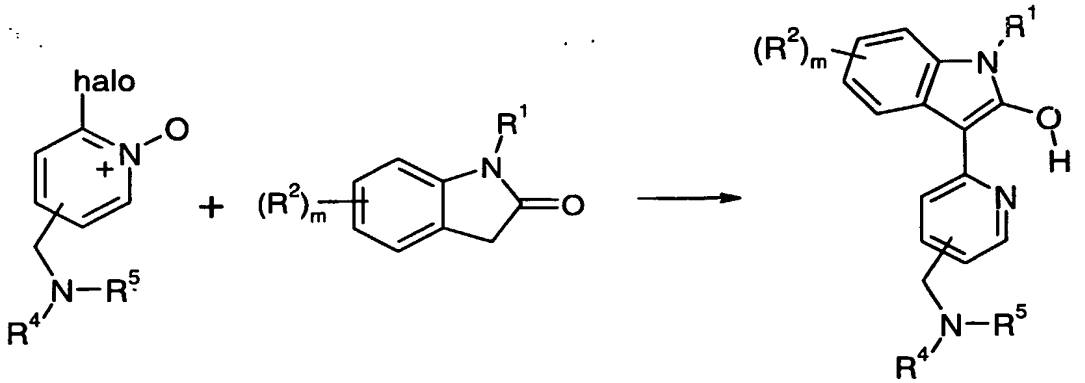
a) reacting a compound of formula **B (XV, XVIII, XVIIIa, XXI, XXIII)**, wherein L^1 is a leaving group such as halogen, e.g. fluorine, chlorine or bromine, with a compound of formula **C** (e.g. compounds of formula **III, V, IX, XII, XIII**); wherein R^1, R^2 and m are as defined in claim 1, to form a compound of formula **Ia**;



(B) (C) (Ia)

in an appropriate solvent at a temperature between +10 °C and +150 °C;

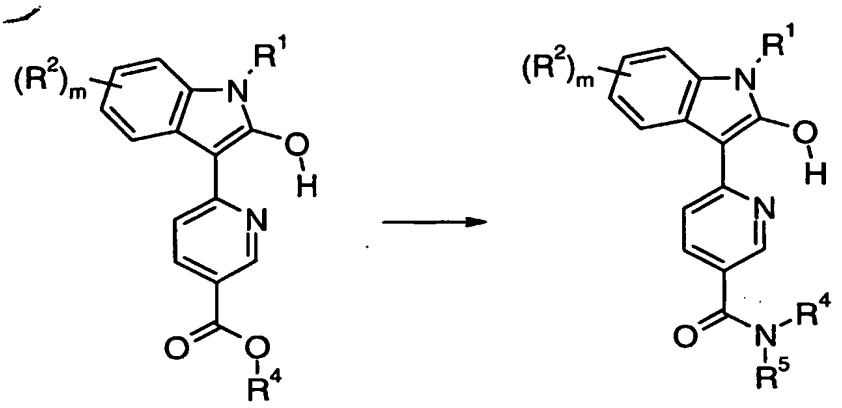
b) reacting a compound of formula **XXV**, wherein halo is halogen, e.g. fluorine, chlorine or bromine, with a compound of formula **C** (e.g. compounds of formula **III, V, IX, XII, XIII**); wherein R^1, R^2 and m are as defined in claim 1 to form a compound of formula **Ia**;



(XXV) (C) (Ia)

in an appropriate solvent at a temperature between +10 °C and +150 °C;

c) reacting a compound of formula **XXVII**, wherein R^4 is C_{1-6}alkyl, with the appropriate amine HNR^4R^5, to form a compound of formula **Ia**;



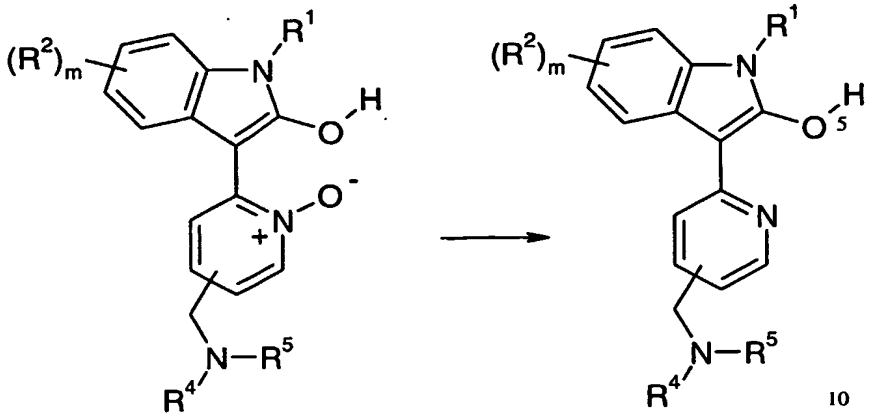
(XXVII) (Ia)

carried out by:

i) the reaction of the compound of formula **XXVII** with the appropriate amine R^4R^5NH in a suitable solvent in the presence of a suitable reagent at a reaction temperature between 0 °C and reflux, or;

ii) the reaction of the compound of formula **XXVII** with the appropriate amine R^4R^5NH neat or in a suitable solvent with or without a suitable base at a temperature between -20 °C and +150 °C;

d) reduction of the *N*-oxide in the compound of formula **XXVIII** to form a compound of formula **Ia**;

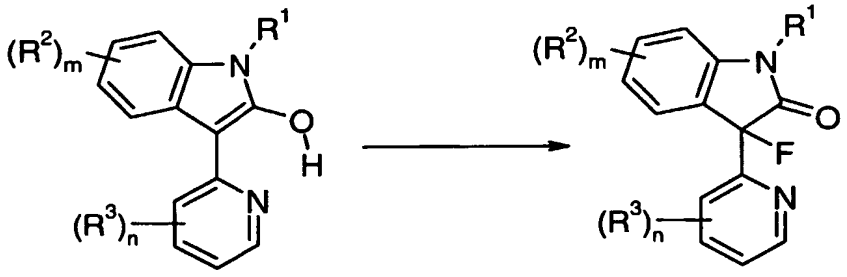


(XXVIII) (Ia)

by using a suitable reagent in a suitable solvent at a temperature between 0 °C and +100 °C.

24. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula **Ib** according to claim 1, comprising:

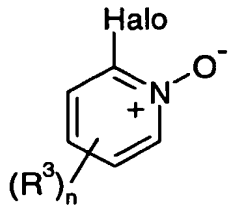
fluorinating a compound of formula **Ia** to form a compound of formula **Ib**;



(Ia) (Ib)

in an appropriate solvent in the presence of a suitable fluorinating reagent and a suitable base at a reaction temperature between -40 °C and +80 °C.

25. A compound according to formula **XXV**



(XXV)

wherein:

Halo is halogen; R^3 is selected from halogen, nitro, C_{1-6}alkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, OC_{1-6}alkylNR^4R^5, C_{0-6}alkylcyano, C_{0-6}alkyl$CONR^4R^5$, C_{0-6}alkyl$(SO_2)NR^4R^5$, C_{0-6}alkylNR^4R^5 and a group X^1R^6, wherein X^1 is a direct bond, O, $CONR^7R^8$, $SO_2NR^9R^{10}$, SO_2R^{11} or $NR^{12}R^{13}$; R^7, R^9 and R^{12} each independently are hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl; R^8, R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{13} are C_{0-4}alkyl; R^6 is phenyl or a 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic group containing one or two heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S, which heterocyclic group may be saturated or unsaturated or said phenyl or 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic group may optionally be fused with a 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring containing atoms selected independently from C, N, O and S and which phenyl or heterocyclic group may be subtituted with one or two substituents selected from W; and R^6 is linked to R^8, R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{13}.

26. A compound according to claim 25, wherein R^3 is C_{0-6}alkylNR^4R^5; and n is 1.

27. A compound which is

1-[(6-Chloropyridin-3-yl)methyl]-4-methylpiperazine;

2-Chloro-5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)pyridine 1-oxide;

2-Chloro-5-(pyrrolidin-1-ylmethyl)pyridine 1-oxide;

1-[(6-Chloro-1-oxidopyridin-3-yl)methyl]-4-methyl-1,4-diazepane;

2-Chloro-5-[(4-pyrrolidin-1-ylpiperidin-1-yl)methyl]pyridine 1-oxide;

1-[(6-Chloro-1-oxidopyridin-3-yl)methyl]-*N*,*N*-dimethylpyrrolidin-3-amine;

2-Chloro-5-[(4-methylpiperidin-1-yl)methyl]pyridine 1-oxide;

1-[(6-Chloro-1-oxidopyridin-3-yl)methyl]-4-phenylpiperazine;

1-[(6-Chloro-1-oxidopyridin-3-yl)methyl]-4-[2-nitro-4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]piperazine;

3-[[(6-Chloro-1-oxidopyridin-3-yl)methyl](ethyl)amino]propanenitrile;

N-(4-Chlorobenzyl)-*N*-[(6-chloro-1-oxidopyridin-3-yl)methyl]-*N*-methylamine;

N-[(6-Chloro-1-oxidopyridin-3-yl)methyl]-*N*-(2-furylmethyl)-*N*-methylamine;

N-[(6-Chloro-1-oxidopyridin-3-yl)methyl]-*N*-methyl-*N*-phenylamine;

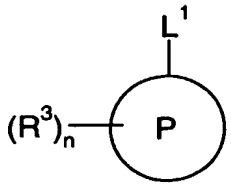
5-(Azetidin-1-ylmethyl)-2-chloropyridine 1-oxide;

2-Chloro-5-[(3-methylpiperidin-1-yl)methyl]pyridine 1-oxide;

N-[(6-Chloro-1-oxidopyridin-3-yl)methyl]-*N*-cyclohexyl-*N*-methylamine;

2-Chloro-5-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)pyridine 1-oxide;

28. A compound according to formula **B (XV, XVIII, XVIIIa XXI, XXIII)**



(B)

wherein P represents a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing one or two heteroatoms selected independently from N, O and S of which at least one atom is selected from nitrogen and L^1 is a leaving group such as a halogen e.g. fluorine, chlorine or bromine; wherein R^3 is selected from halogen, nitro, C_{1-6}alkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, OC_{1-6}alkylNR^4R^5, C_{0-6}alkylcyano, C_{0-6}alkyl$CONR^4R^5$, C_{0-6}alkyl$(SO_2)NR^4R^5$, C_{0-6}alkylNR^4R^5 and a group X^1R^6, wherein X^1 is a direct bond, O, $CONR^7R^8$, $SO_2NR^9R^{10}$, SO_2R^{11} or $NR^{12}R^{13}$; R^7, R^9 and R^{12} each independently are hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl; R^8, R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{13} are C_{0-4}alkyl; R^6 is phenyl or a 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic group containing one or two heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S, which heterocyclic group may

be saturated or unsaturated or said phenyl or 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic group may optionally be fused with a 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring containing atoms selected independently from C, N, O and S and which phenyl or heterocyclic group may be subtituted with one or two substituents selected from W; and R^6 is linked to R^8, R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{13}.

29. A compound according to claim 28, wherein P is a pyridine or pyrimidine ring and L^1 is a leaving group such as a halogen e.g. chlorine; wherein R^3 is selected from C_{0-6}alkylCONR^{4}R^5, C_{0-6}alkyl(SO_2)NR^{4}R^5 and C_{0-6}alkylNR^{4}R^5; n is 1.

30. A compound which is

2-Chloro-*N*-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]isonicotinamide;

1-(2-Chloroisonicotinoyl)-4-methylpiperazine;

6-Chloro-*N*-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-*N*-methylnicotinamide;

4-{2-[(6-Chloropyrimidin-4-yl)oxy]ethyl}morpholine;

1-Benzyl-4-[(6-chloropyridine-3-yl)sulfonyl]piperazine;

1-[(6-Chloropyridin-3-yl)sulfonyl]-4-(3-methylbutyl)piperazine;

1-[(6-Chloropyridin-3-yl)sulfonyl]-4-isopropylpiperazine;

1-[(6-Chloropyridin-3-yl)sulfonyl]-4-ethylpiperazine;

1-[(5-Bromo-6-chloropyridin-3-yl)sulfonyl]-4-methylpiperazine;

6-Chloro-*N*-methyl-*N*-(2-pyrrolidin-1-ylethyl)pyridine-3-sulfonamide;

6-Chloro-*N*-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]pyridine-3-sulfonamide;

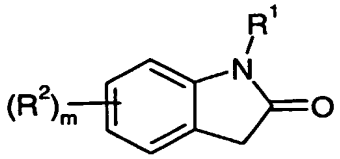
6-Chloro-*N*-[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]-*N*-ethylpyridine-3-sulfonamide;

6-Chloro-*N*-[(1-ethylpyrrolidin-2-yl)methyl]pyridine-3-sulfonamide;

1-[(6-Chloropyridin-3-yl)sulfonyl]-4-methyl-1,4-diazepane;

4-[(6-Chloropyridin-3-yl)sulfonyl]morpholine;

31. A compound according to formula C **(III, V, IX, XII, XIII)**



(C)

wherein:

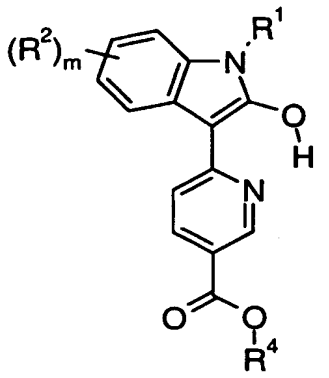
R^1 is hydrogen; R^2 is selected from halogen, nitro, C_{1-6}alkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, $OC_{1-6}alkylNR^4R^5$, C_{0-6}alkylcyano, $C_{0-6}alkylCONR^4R^5$, $C_{0-6}alkyl(SO_2)NR^4R^5$, $C_{0-6}alkylNR^4R^5$ and a group X^1R^6, wherein X^1 is a direct bond, O, $CONR^7R^8$, $SO_2NR^9R^{10}$, SO_2R^{11} or $NR^{12}R^{13}$; R^7, R^9 and R^{12} each independently are hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl; R^8, R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{13} are C_{0-4}alkyl; R^6 is phenyl or a 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic group containing one or two heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S, which heterocyclic group may be saturated or unsaturated or said phenyl or 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic group may optionally be fused with a 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring containing atoms selected independently from C, N, O and S and which phenyl or heterocyclic group may be subtituted with one or two substituents selected from W; and R^6 is linked to R^8, R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{13}.

32. A compound accrding to claim 31, wherein R^1 is hydrogen; R^2 is selected from halogen and a group X^1R^6, wherein X^1 is a direct bond; R^6 is a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing one or two heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S; m is 1 or 2.

33. A compound which is:
5,6-Dibromo-1,3-dihydroindol-2-one;
5-Pyridin-3-yl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-one;
5-Thien-2-yl-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-one;
5-(2-Furyl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-one;
5-(1,3-Oxazol-5-yl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-one;
5-(1,3-Thiazol-4-yl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-one;

5-(2-Methyl-1,3-thiazol-4-yl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-one;

34. A compound according to formula **XXVII**



(XXVII)

wherein R^1 is hydrogen; R^2 is selected from halogen, nitro, C_{1-6}alkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, $OC_{1-6}alkylNR^4R^5$, $C_{0-6}alkylcyano$, $C_{0-6}alkylCONR^4R^5$, $C_{0-6}alkyl(SO_2)NR^4R^5$, $C_{0-6}alkylNR^4R^5$ and a group X^1R^6, wherein X^1 is a direct bond, O, $CONR^7R^8$, $SO_2NR^9R^{10}$, SO_2R^{11} or $NR^{12}R^{13}$; R^7, R^9 and R^{12} each independently are hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl; R^8, R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{13} are C_{0-4}alkyl; R^6 is phenyl or a 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic group containing one or two heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S, which heterocyclic group may be saturated or unsaturated or said phenyl or 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic group may optionally be fused with a 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring containing atoms selected independently from C, N, O and S and which phenyl or heterocyclic group may be subtituted with one or two substituents selected from W; and R^6 is linked to R^8, R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{13}.

35. A compound according to claim 34, wherein R^1 is hydrogen; R^2 is selected from nitro and cyano; m is 1.

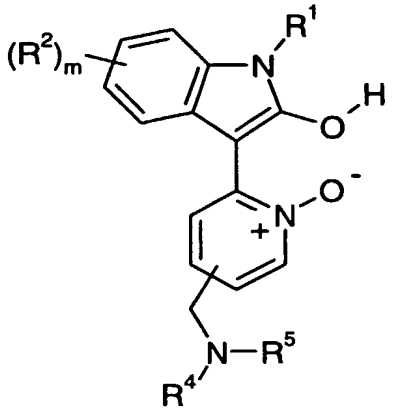
36. A compound which is

Ethyl 6-(2-hydroxy-5-nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)nicotinate;

Ethyl 6-(2-hydroxy-5-cyano-1*H*-indol-3-yl)nicotinate;

as a free base or a salt thereof.

37. A compound according to formula **XXVIII**



(XXVIII)

wherein R^1 is hydrogen; R^2 is selected from halogen, nitro, C_{1-6}alkyl, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, fluoromethoxy, difluoromethoxy, trifluoromethoxy, $OC_{1-6}alkylNR^4R^5$, C_{0-6}alkylcyano, $C_{0-6}alkylCONR^4R^5$, $C_{0-6}alkyl(SO_2)NR^4R^5$, $C_{0-6}alkylNR^4R^5$ and a group X^1R^6, wherein X^1 is a direct bond, O, $CONR^7R^8$, $SO_2NR^9R^{10}$, SO_2R^{11} or $NR^{12}R^{13}$; R^7, R^9 and R^{12} each independently are hydrogen or C_{1-3}alkyl; R^8, R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{13} are C_{0-4}alkyl; R^6 is phenyl or a 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic group containing one or two heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S, which heterocyclic group may be saturated or unsaturated or said phenyl or 5-, 6- or 7-membered heterocyclic group may optionally be fused with a 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring containing atoms selected independently from C, N, O and S and which phenyl or heterocyclic group may be subtituted with one or two substituents selected from W; and R^6 is linked to R^8, R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{13}.

38. A compound according to claim 37, wherein R^1 is hydrogen; R^2 is a group X^1R^6, wherein X^1 is a direct bond; R^6 is a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic group containing one or two heteroatoms, selected independently from N, O and S; m is 1

39. A compound which is

3-[5-(Morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-1-oxidopyridin-2-yl]-5-pyridin-3-yl-1*H*-indol-2-ol;

3-[5-(Morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-1-oxidopyridin-2-yl]-5-thien-2-yl-1*H*-indol-2-ol;

5-(2-Furyl)-3-[5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-1-oxidopyridin-2-yl]-1*H*-indol-2-ol;

as a free base or a salt thereof.

40. A compound which is

5-(Hydroxymethyl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-one;

2-Oxoindoline-5-carbaldehyde;

5-(Chloroacetyl)-1,3-dihydro-2*H*-indol-2-one;

as a free base or a salt thereof.

41. The use of the compounds according to any one of claims 25 to 40 in the preparation of a compound of formula **Ia** or **Ib** as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9.